

## March 2017

### [EPA Withdraws Information Request for the Oil and Gas Industry](#)

Release Date: 03/02/2017

EPA is withdrawing its request that owners and operators in the oil and natural gas industry provide information on equipment and emissions at existing oil and gas operations.

#### Statement

*This Administration's action will reduce burdens on businesses while we take a closer look at the need for additional information from this industry. Under the previous administration, EPA sent letters to more than 15,000 owners and operators in the oil and gas industry, requiring them to provide information on greenhouse gases.*

### [EPA to Reexamine Emission Standards for Cars & Light Duty Trucks, Model Years 2022-2025](#)

Release Date: 03/15/2017

DOT Secretary Elaine Chao and Administrator Scott Pruitt will revisit the previous administration's rule that finalized standards to increase fuel economy to the equivalent of 54.5 mpg for cars and light-duty trucks by Model Year 2025.

#### Statement

*These standards are costly for automakers and the American people. The Department of Transportation announced that it would re-open the Mid-Term evaluation process and work with the EPA to complete the review in a transparent, data-driven manner. This thorough review will help ensure that this national program is good for consumers and good for the environment.*

### [EPA Administrator Pruitt Previews President's Executive Order on Energy Independence](#)

Release Date: 03/26/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt previewed the upcoming executive order on the American Energy Independence. He laid out the core message of the pending action, saying job growth and a healthy environment aren't at odds.

#### Statement

*The President's Energy Independence Executive Order supports the need for pro-growth, pro-environment approach to our nation's environmental regulations. The Executive Order will address the past administration's effort to kill jobs throughout the country through the Clean Power Plan.*

### [EPA Administrator Pruitt Denies Petition to Ban Widely Used Pesticide](#)

Release Date: 03/29/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt signed an order denying a petition that sought to ban chlorpyrifos, a pesticide crucial to U.S. agriculture.

#### Statement

*EPA is providing regulatory certainty to the thousands of American farms that rely on chlorpyrifos while still protecting human health and the environment. By reversing the previous Administration's steps to ban one of the most widely used pesticides in the world, we are returning to using sound science in decision-making.*

### [EPA Administrator Sends Clean Power Plan Guidance Letter to Governors](#)

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

Release Date: 03/30/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt sent letters to state governors advising them that they are under no obligation to adhere to the Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule.

### Statement

*This administration has fulfilled its promise of cooperative federalism and acted on the President's Energy Independence Executive order by advising state governors that they are under no obligation to adhere to the Clean Power Plan rule. EPA looks forward to working with states and local communities to develop a path forward to improve our environment and bolster the economy in a manner that is respectful of and consistent with the rule of law.*

## April 2017

### Regulatory Reform Underway at EPA

Release Date: 04/11/2017

EPA's Regulatory Reform Task Force, led by the Office of Policy, submitted a Federal Register notice today to solicit public comments on EPA regulations.

### Statement

*In a vital step toward implementing the President's Executive Order, "Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda," EPA's Regulatory Reform Task Force solicited public comments on EPA regulations. The administration is committed to working with the public and EPA program offices to gather their recommendations for specific rules that should be considered for repeal, replacement or modification.*

### EPA Administrator Pruitt Statement on OMB Guidance on Reorganizing the Government

Release Date: 04/13/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt supports the Office of Management and Budget's guidance on implementing President Trump's plans for reorganizing the federal government and reducing the government workforce.

### Statement

*In support of President Trump's plans for reorganizing the federal government and reducing the government workforce, the administration will work with EPA staff to effectively use every taxpayer dollar entrusted to the agency. EPA will return to its core statutory mission, and focusing on greater value and results, and partner with states and tribes to ensure a thoughtful approach is used to maximize resources to protect our air, land, and water.*

### EPA to Reconsider Oil and Gas Rule

Release Date: 04/19/2017

EPA announced the agency's intent to grant a reconsideration of the Oil and Gas New Source Performance Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Rule (NSPS Rule/Methane NSPS/Oil and Gas Rule/0000a).

### Statement

*In continued support of the President's Energy Independence Executive Order, EPA reconsidered the Oil and Gas New Source Performance Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Final Rule. EPA believes American businesses should have the opportunity to review new requirements, assess economic impacts and report back, before those new requirements are finalized.*

### EPA Kicks Off Website Updates

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

Release Date: 04/28/2017

EPA.gov, the website for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, is undergoing changes that reflect the agency's new direction under President Donald Trump and Administrator Scott Pruitt.

### Statement

*Updating and improving EPA's website reflects the agency's new direction under the leadership of President Donald Trump and Administrator Scott Pruitt. With a commitment to transparency, the changes ensure the website's usefulness to the public in understanding the agency's work while complying with agency ethics and legal guidance, including the use of proper archiving procedures.*

## May 2017

### [EPA Extends Timeline for Pesticide Applicators Rule](#)

Release Date: 05/11/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt announced a 12-month extension for implementation of the revised final Certification and Training of Pesticide Applicators (C&T) rule.

### Statement

*To achieve both environmental protection and economic prosperity, EPA must give the regulated community, which includes farmers and ranchers, adequate time to comply with regulations. Extending the timeline for implementation of this rule will enable EPA to consult with states, assist with education, training and guidance, and prevent unnecessary burdens from overshadowing the rule's intended benefits.*

### [Bill Signed by President Trump Gives EPA's WIFIA Program Additional Help to Meet Communities' Water Infrastructure Needs](#)

Release Date: 05/17/2017

EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program received an additional \$8 million for credit subsidy in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017, signed into law by President Donald Trump on May 5, 2017.

### Statement

*EPA received 43 letters of interest for WIFIA loans from public and private entities with a collective request of \$6 billion, demonstrating the high need to invest in water infrastructure improvements in communities across the nation and the value that WIFIA financing can offer. Thanks to President Trump and Congress, this additional funding will accelerate the construction of projects to meet communities' water infrastructure needs.*

### [EPA Budget Returns Focus to Core Statutory Mission](#)

Release Date: 05/23/2017

The proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, announced today, provides \$5.655 billion to help the agency protect human health and the environment.

### Statement

*This budget supports EPA's highest priorities with federal funding for priority work in infrastructure, air and water quality, and ensuring the safety of chemicals in the marketplace. It respects the American taxpayer by aiming to reduce redundancies and inefficiencies and prioritize EPA's core statutory mission of providing Americans with clean air, land, and water.*

### [EPA Stays Landfill Methane Rules](#)

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

Release Date: 05/23/2017

EPA announced a 90-day administrative stay for the August 2016 New Source Performance Standards and Emissions guidelines for municipal solid waste landfills.

### Statement

*The administration estimates that implementing these rules would cost businesses more than \$100 million per year to install and operate gas collection and control systems. Reconsidering portions of the landfill rules will give stakeholders the opportunity to review these requirements, assess economic impacts and provide feedback to the agency through the reconsideration process.*

## June 2017

### [EPA to Extend Deadline for 2015 Ozone NAAQS Area Designations](#)

Release Date: 06/06/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt sent a letter to governors today to inform them of EPA's efforts related to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone promulgated in October 2015.

### Statement

*This administration understands areas designated as being in "nonattainment" of the standard face consequences, including: increased regulatory burdens, restrictions on infrastructure investment, and increased costs to businesses. Because states have made tremendous progress and significant investment cleaning up the air, EPA is giving states more time to develop air quality plans and will provide greater flexibility to states as they develop their plans.*

### [EPA Extends RMP Effective Date to 2019](#)

Release Date: 06/12/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a final rule to further delay the effective date of EPA's Risk Management Program (RMP) Amendments an additional 20 months to allow the agency to conduct a reconsideration proceeding and to consider other issues that may benefit from additional comment.

### Statement

*This action allows EPA time to evaluate the RMP amendments and to thoughtfully consider questions and concerns submitted through multiple petitions and other comments received during the public comment period and public hearing.*

### [United States Resets Climate Change Discussion At G7](#)

Release Date: 06/12/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt announced that the United States stands firm on its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and has reset the conversation about climate change reflective of the new priorities of the Trump Administration and the expectations of the American people.

### Statement

*This action of reaching consensus on important environmental issues makes clear that the Paris Agreement is not the only mechanism by which environmental stewardship can be demonstrated. It also demonstrates EPA's commitment to honest conversations, which are the cornerstone of constructive international dialogue*

### [EPA Proposes Longer Stay of Portions of Oil and Gas Standards](#)

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

Release Date: 06/13/2017

EPA is taking steps to ensure portions of the agency's 2016 New Source Performance Standards for the oil and natural gas industry do not take effect while the agency works through the reconsideration process.

### Statement

*In consideration of several petitions the agency has received to reconsider certain aspects of this potentially burdensome rule, EPA will take additional time to review these concerns which impact one of our nation's most important industries.*

### [EPA Marks Chemical Safety Milestone on 1st Anniversary of Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act](#)

Release Date: 06/22/2017

Today, on the one-year anniversary of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, Administrator Scott Pruitt announced that EPA has met its first-year statutory responsibilities under the law.

### Statement

*This administration is committed to providing regulatory certainty to American businesses, while protecting human health and the environment. The new process for evaluating existing chemicals outlined in these rules will increase public confidence in chemical safety without stifling innovation.*

### [EPA, U.S. Army Move to Rescind 2015 "Waters of the U.S."](#)

Release Date: 06/27/2017

The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Army, and Army Corps of Engineers (the agencies) are proposing a rule to rescind the Clean Water Rule and re-codify the regulatory text that existed prior to 2015 defining "waters of the United States" or WOTUS.

### Statement

*The administration is taking significant action to return power to the states and provide regulatory certainty to our nation's farmers and businesses. EPA is committed to moving through this re-evaluation to quickly provide regulatory certainty in a way that is thoughtful, transparent and collaborative with other agencies and the public.*

## July 2017

### [EPA Proposes RFS Volumes Reflective of Market Realities for 2018](#)

Release Date: 07/05/2017

EPA signed a proposed rule setting the minimum amount of renewable fuels that must be supplied to the market in calendar year 2018 under the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) program.

### Statement

*EPA is committed to successfully administering the RFS consistent with the direction entrusted to the Agency by Congress. The proposed new volumes are consistent with market realities focused on actual production and consumer demand while acknowledging challenges in bringing advanced biofuels into the marketplace. Timely implementation will provide certainty to American refiners, the agriculture community and broader fuels industry.*

### [EPA Announces Superfund Task Force Recommendations](#)

Release Date: 07/25/2017

EPA's Superfund Task Force released their report to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, providing 42 specific and detailed recommendations to streamline and improve the Superfund program.

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

### Statement

*This task force is a team effort between career and political EPA staff, working together to develop recommendations that are detailed, but also workable. This process ensures we can expedite the protection of human health and the environment around these properties and accelerate reuse while carrying out one of the agency's core missions.*

### [New Tool Helps Communities Access \\$10 Billion in Water Infrastructure Financing](#)

Release Date: 07/26/2017

EPA is launching the Water Finance Clearinghouse, a web-based portal to help communities make informed financing decisions for their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure needs.

### Statement

*Investing in water infrastructure sustains local economies by creating jobs, protecting public health, and increasing quality of life. EPA's Clearinghouse serves as a vital portal that helps connect the many communities struggling with aging or inadequate water infrastructure with the information and tools they need to finance much-needed improvement projects.*

### [Federal Partnership Launches Water Quality Challenge Piloting Low-Cost Nutrient Sensors for Local Decision-Making](#)

Release Date: 07/26/2017

Today, a federal partnership launched a technology-accelerating water quality challenge to demonstrate how nutrient sensors can be used by states and local communities to help manage nutrient pollution.

### Statement

*This partnership demonstrates the power of innovation in developing affordable, high-performing solutions to one of the nation's most extensive water quality issues. By finding ways to address algal blooms, EPA can help industries, sectors and communities that depend on clean water while saving federal, state, and local governments billions of dollars every year in combating nutrient pollution.*

### [EPA Adds Superfund Sites to National Priorities List to Clean Up Contamination](#)

Release Date: 07/31/2017

EPA is adding seven and proposing to add four hazardous waste sites to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL).

### Statement

*This administration aims to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the agency's core mission. By adding sites to the Superfund National Priorities List we ensure they are cleaned up to make these communities healthier places to live, and clear the way for development and increased economic activity.*

## August 2017

### [Air Quality Continues to Improve, While U.S. Economy Continues to Grow](#)

Release Date: 08/02/2017

EPA released its annual report on air quality, showing the significant progress the United States has made to improve air quality across the country.

### Statement

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

*EPA is proud to highlight nearly 75 percent reduction in six key pollutants since 1970, during a period in which the U.S. economy grew more than three times. EPA remains committed to working with states, tribes, and local air agencies to help more areas of the country come into compliance so all Americans receive the benefits of clean air.*

### [EPA Continues to Work With States on 2015 Ozone Designations](#)

Release Date: 08/02/2017

EPA is moving forward with 2015 ozone designations, working with states to help areas with underlying technical issues, disputed designations, and/or insufficient information.

#### Statement

*The Clean Air Act gives EPA the flexibility to allow one additional year for sufficient information to support ozone designations. This action reinforces our commitment to working with the states through the complex designation process.*

### [EPA Eliminates New-Chemical Backlog, Announces Improvements to New Chemical Safety Reviews](#)

Release Date: 08/07/2017

Following through with Administrator Pruitt's commitment to eliminating the backlog of new chemical cases that were stuck in EPA's review processes upon his confirmation, he is reporting that the backlog is eliminated.

#### Statement

*When Administrator Pruitt was confirmed, over 600 new chemicals were 'stuck' in the EPA review process. The current caseload is back at the baseline and now in line with the typical active workload. With the ongoing commitment of the staff working on TSCA reviews, and input from stakeholders, EPA will ensure a new chemicals program that is both protective of human health and the environment, while also being supportive of bringing new chemicals to market.*

### [EPA Issues Guidance on State Coal Ash Management Permit Programs](#)

Release Date: 08/10/2017

EPA released an interim final guidance to help states develop and submit permit programs for the safe management of coal combustion residuals (CCR), commonly known as coal ash, to EPA for review and approval.

#### Statement

*As part of EPA's ongoing commitment to cooperative federalism, the agency encourages States to consult this interim final guidance as they develop and submit programs to EPA for review and approval. EPA will continue to consult with our state partners to find the best management strategy for the safe disposal of coal ash in each of their states.*

### [Updates to EPA's EJSCREEN Provide Access to Important New Data](#)

Release Date: 08/16/2017

EPA today launched its annual update of EJSCREEN, the Agency's nationally acclaimed environmental justice screening and mapping tool.

#### Statement

*EJSCREEN is one of the agency's most popular tools, regularly used by other federal, Tribal, state and local government partners as well as by nonprofit and community groups, business and industry, and academia. It increases the agency's transparency about how we consider environmental justice, to assist our partners and stakeholders in making informed decisions, and to create a common starting point between EPA and others when looking at issues related to environmental justice.*

### [EPA and the Army Seek Input in the Review of the Waters of the U.S. Rule](#)



## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

Release Date: 08/25/2017

EPA and U.S. Department of the Army (the agencies) will hold 11 sessions to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide recommendations on a revised definition of “waters of the United States.”

### Statement

*EPA is committed to an open and transparent process for reviewing the definition of ‘waters of the United States.’ Receiving input from across the country will help us make informed decisions as we move through our two-step process that will return power to the states and to provide regulatory certainty to our nation’s farmers and businesses.*

## September 2017

### [EPA Approves Emergency Fuel Waivers for 38 States and Washington, D.C.](#)

Release Date: 09/07/2017

As a result of the continuing impacts on Gulf Coast-area refineries and disruption to the fuel distribution system caused by Hurricane Harvey and the effects of large-scale evacuations in response to Hurricane Irma, Administrator Scott Pruitt today exercised EPA’s emergency fuel waiver authority to help ensure an adequate supply of fuel.

### Statement

*Helping ensure an adequate supply of fuel throughout the country is vital to maintaining our nation’s economy and services during emergency events. EPA, in coordination with the Department of Energy, will continue to offer this relief as appropriate.*

### [EPA Finalizes Rule to Postpone Steam Electric Power Plant Effluent Guidelines Rule](#)

Release Date: 09/13/2017

EPA has finalized a rule postponing certain compliance dates by two years for the effluent limitations guidelines and standards for steam electric power plants (ELG Rule) that were issued in November 2015.

### Statement

*This action provides relief for power plants from regulatory deadlines while the agency reconsiders existing effluent guidelines. Giving facilities time to comply benefits industry and our economy.*

### [EPA to Reconsider Certain Coal Ash Rule Provisions](#)

Release Date: 09/14/2017

EPA has granted two petitions to reconsider substantive provisions of the final rule regulating coal combustion residuals (CCR) as nonhazardous waste under subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

### Statement

*EPA granted these petitions to consider improvements that may help states tailor their permit programs to their needs in a way that provides greater regulatory certainty, while also ensuring that human health and the environment remain protected. It was appropriate and in the public’s interest to reconsider specific provisions of the final CCR rule based in part on the authority provided through the Water Infrastructure for Improvements to the Nation (WIIN) Act.*

## October 2017

### [EPA Launches Smart Sectors Program](#)

Release Date: 10/03/2017



## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the launch of Smart Sectors, a partnership program between the Agency and regulated sectors focused on achieving better environmental outcomes.

### Statement

*The Smart Sectors program is designed to effectively engage business partners throughout the regulatory process. When industries and regulators better understand each other, the economy, public, and the environment all benefit.*

### [EPA Takes Another Step To Advance President's America First Strategy, Proposes Repeal Of "Clean Power Plan"](#)

Release Date: 10/10/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), proposing to repeal the so-called "Clean Power Plan (CPP)."

### Statement

*The Supreme Court issued a historic, unprecedented stay of the Clean Power Plan, prompted by the overreach of the previous administration. EPA is committed to clearing the regulatory slate. Any replacement rule will be done carefully, properly, and with humility, by listening to all those affected by the rule.*

### [Administrator Pruitt Addresses National Tribal Operations Committee](#)

Release Date: 10/11/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt addressed the National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC) where he spoke on pressing issues facing environmental leaders in Indian country and how best to collaborate on shared goals and challenges.

### Statement

*EPA is committed to working and partnering with tribal governments to address our shared environmental concerns and challenges. Tribal government play an important role in environmental management, and through the unique government-to-government relationship that tribes have with the federal government, we engage in the process as co-regulators.*

### [EPA and States' Collective Efforts Lead to Regulatory Action on Dicamba](#)

Release Date: 10/13/2017

EPA has reached an agreement with Monsanto, BASF and DuPont on measures to further minimize the potential for drift to damage neighboring crops from the use of dicamba formulations used to control weeds in genetically modified cotton and soybeans.

### Statement

*EPA has worked intensely and collaboratively with the states and university scientists from across the nation who have first-hand knowledge of the problem and workable solutions to develop this action. Through this example of cooperative federalism, the new requirements for the use of dicamba will allow farmers to make informed choices for seed purchases for the 2018 growing season.*

### [Administrator Pruitt Issues Directive to End EPA "Sue & Settle"](#)

Release Date: 10/16/2017

In fulfilling his promise to end the practice of regulation through litigation that has harmed the American public, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a directive today designed to end "sue and settle" practices within the Agency.

### Statement

*The days of regulation through litigation are over. This decision provides an unprecedented level of public participation and transparency in EPA consent decrees and settlement agreements. Special-interest groups will no*

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

*longer be able to use lawsuits that seek to force EPA issue regulations that advance their interests and priorities, on their specified timeframe.*

### [EPA Helps Communities Grow Local Food Economy, Spur Revitalization](#)

Release Date: 10/19/2017

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a new toolkit to help communities interested in using local foods to support downtown and neighborhood revitalization.

#### Statement

*By investing in local foods, communities can preserve farmlands and protect the environment while bringing new jobs and business opportunities to main street. This program allows local officials, community groups, businesses and citizens to explore the benefits of using farmers markets, community kitchens and other food-related enterprises to revitalize communities and develop action plans for pursuing those goals.*

### [Administrator Pruitt Meets with Superfund Stakeholders in Texas](#)

Release Date: 10/20/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt met with stakeholders at the Harris County Office who are monitoring cleanup efforts at the San Jacinto Superfund site that is contaminated with highly toxic dioxin.

#### Statement

*EPA is committed to helping dispose of these toxic materials in a cost-effective and efficient way to better ensure a healthy and safe environment for nearby residents. This decision will provide overall certainty by permanently addressing the contamination risks instead of capping the site.*

### [EPA Releases Energy Independence Report](#)

Release Date: 10/25/2017

Today, EPA released its final report on implementing President Trump's executive order to curb regulatory burdens in order to promote energy production and economic growth while protecting human health and the environment.

#### Statement

*At EPA, being both pro-jobs and pro-environment means we are working to curb unnecessary and duplicative regulatory burdens that do not serve the American people while continuing to partner with states, tribes and stakeholders to protect our air, land, and water.*

### [EPA Releases Guidance on Reporting Air Emissions of Hazardous Substances from Animal Waste at Farms](#)

Release Date: 10/26/2017

Today, EPA is releasing guidance to assist farmers in reporting air releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at farms.

#### Statement

*Farmers are some of the most important contributors to our nation's economy, and EPA is working diligently to address undue regulatory burden on this vital sector. EPA's guidance is designed to help farmers comply with the current requirements while we continue to examine our options for reporting requirements for emissions from animal waste.*

### [EPA Enforcement Actions Help Protect Vulnerable Communities Across the Country from Lead-Based Paint Health Hazards](#)

Release Date: 10/27/2017

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

As part of Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, EPA today announced 127 federal enforcement actions completed over the last year to ensure entities like renovation contractors, landlords and property managers are in compliance with regulations that require them to protect communities and the public from exposures to lead.

### Statement

*EPA's work to enforce federal lead paint laws helps protect communities across the country and ensures those who break the law are held accountable for their illegal actions. These cases also help maintain a level playing field for companies that follow the rules and comply with the law.*

### [Administrator Pruitt Issues Directive to Ensure Independence, Geographic Diversity & Integrity in EPA Science Committees](#)

Release Date: 10/31/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a new directive today to ensure that any advisors serving on an EPA Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) are independent and free from any real, apparent, or potential interference with their ability to objectively serve as a committee member.

### Statement

*This action ensures EPA advisory committee members will be financially independent from the Agency. It also will significantly increase geographic diversity and state, tribal, and local government participation on the committees and ensure whatever science comes out of EPA will not be political science.*

## November 2017

### [EPA Announces Public Hearing on Proposed Repeal of Clean Power Plan](#)

Release Date: 11/02/2017

EPA will hold a public hearing on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan in Charleston, WV on November 28-29, 2017.

### Statement

*EPA is committed to hearing from those most impacted by the Clean Power Plan and getting their comments on the proposed repeal. We look forward to hearing from all interested stakeholders.*

### [EPA Announces Intention To Nominate Members To Three Important Federal Advisory Committees](#)

Release Date: 11/03/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt announced his intention to appoint members who will serve on the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee (CASAC) and the Science Advisory Board (SAB).

### Statement

*EPA is ensuring the best independent scientific advice is given by appointing highly-qualified experts and scientists to these important committees. In a fair, open, and transparent fashion, EPA reviewed hundreds of qualified applicants nominated for these committees. Members who will be appointed include experts throughout the environmental stakeholder community, including from NGOs, academia, industry, and state, tribal and local officials.*

### [EPA, Working with States and Tribes, Makes Final Attainment Designations for 2015 Ozone NAAQS](#)

Release Date: 11/06/2017

Consistent with the states' and tribes' recommendations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is moving forward with designations for close to 90 percent of the country.

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

### Statement

*This action shows our commitment to working with our state and tribal partners on one of the most important areas of EPA's work – ensuring that more Americans are living and working in areas that meet national air quality standards. After EPA establishes or revises an air quality standard, the Agency will follow a process, dictated by the Clean Air Act, by which states recommend area designations to EPA. The Agency then evaluates their recommendations prior to making its final designations.*

### [Administrator Pruitt Advances Effort to Keep EPA within Regulatory Lane with Proposed Repeal of Glider Provisions from Heavy-Duty Truck Rule](#)

Release Date: 11/09/2017

EPA proposes to undo the regulatory overreach of the prior administration by repealing application of the Medium- and Heavy-Duty Truck Phase II Greenhouse Gas Emission and Fuel Efficiency Standards for the glider industry.

### Statement

*EPA is taking comment on an interpretation of the Clean Air Act that recognizes the unique nature of a vehicle made up of both new and used component parts. The Agency is proposing that gliders should not be regulated as "new motor vehicles" or "new motor vehicle engines" under section 202(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act. This action does not affect nor propose to affect EPA's authority to address heavy-duty engine rebuilding practices under Clean Air Act section 202(a)(3)(D).*

### [EPA Celebrates Recycling Progress, Economic Contribution on 20th America Recycles Day](#)

Release Date: 11/15/2017

Today, on the 20th America Recycles Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) celebrates the importance of recycling to our nation's economy.

### Statement

*We are encouraging all Americans to recycle more today, and every day. With a greater focus on recycling, the U.S. recycling rate has more than tripled over the last 30 years to the current rate of 34 percent. According to our most recent data from 2007, recycling and reuse activities created 757,000 jobs, produced \$36.6 billion in wages and \$6.7 billion in tax revenues in the United States in that year.*

### [EPA Announces Availability of \\$1.2 Million in Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements](#)

Release Date: 11/16/2017

EPA announced today the availability of \$1.2 million for Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreements.

### Statement

*EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements help non-profit and tribal organizations to partner with stakeholders from across industry, government, and academia to develop and implement solutions that significantly address environmental and/or public health issues in America's low income and minority communities. By focusing this year's grant on rural areas, EPA can increase outreach to underserved communities.*

### [EPA and the Army Propose to Amend the Effective Date of the 2015 Rule Defining "Waters of the United States"](#)

Release Date: 11/16/2017

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

EPA and U.S. Department of the Army (the agencies) are proposing to amend the effective date of the 2015 rule defining “waters of the United States.”

### Statement

*This proposal shows our commitment to our state and tribal partners and to providing regulatory certainty to our nation’s farmers, ranchers and businesses allowing us to minimize confusion as we continue to receive input from across the country on how we should revise the definition of the ‘waters of the United States.’ EPA and the Army are taking this action to provide certainty and consistency to the regulated community.*

### [EPA Assesses Sunken, Leaking Marine Vessels](#)

Release Date: 11/20/2017

EPA is supporting Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the U.S. Coast Guard in marine vessel recovery work. Teams continue to locate, assess and retrieve sunken, damaged and derelict vessels around Puerto Rico and the USVI.

### Statement

*Hurricane response is one of the agency’s most important missions. EPA remains focused on environmental impacts and potential threats to the health and safety of those in the affected areas from spills and hazardous substances that might be onboard the vessels.*

### [EPA is Clearing Out the Agency's FOIA Backlog](#)

Release Date: 11/21/2017

EPA announced that the Agency is on track to significantly reduce the backlog of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests received prior to 2017.

### Statement

*EPA is committed to transparency and we are quickly responding to the challenge to clear the backlog of FOIAs. EPA’s National FOIA Office and offices across the agency have been working hard to clear the backlog of FOIA requests that existed at the start of 2017.*

### [DC Circuit Court Grants Trump EPA Request to Extend Deadline for Farmers to Report Emissions from Livestock Operations](#)

Release Date: 11/28/2017

On November 22, 2017, in response to a request from the Trump administration EPA, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals effectively extended the deadline for farmers to report air releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at livestock operations until January 22, 2018.

### Statement

*EPA is giving farmers and ranchers additional time in order to provide compliance assistance to farmers, update its guidance, and develop a more-streamlined reporting form. With the Court’s decision, farmers are not required to report emissions from animal waste at these facilities until after the Court issues its mandate, expected no sooner than January 22, 2018.*

### [EPA Finalizes RFS Volumes for 2018 and Biomass Based Diesel Volumes for 2019](#)

Release Date: 11/30/2017

EPA finalized a rule that establishes the required renewable fuel volumes under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) program for 2018, and biomass-based diesel for 2019.

### Statement

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

*Maintaining the renewable fuel standard at current levels ensures stability in the marketplace and follows through with EPA's commitment to meet the statutory deadlines and upholding the rule of law. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set the RFS volume requirements annually and to finalize the standards by November 30th for the following year. The final standards for 2018, and for biomass-based diesel for 2019, are only slightly changed from the proposed standards that EPA issued earlier this year.*

### December 2017

#### [EPA to Co-host National Brownfields Training Conference in Pittsburgh](#)

Release Date: 12/01/2017

EPA and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) are co-sponsoring the National Brownfields Training Conference in Pittsburgh Dec. 4-7 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

#### Statement

*Cleaning up Brownfields sites and returning them to reuse is a priority of this Administration. We are providing an opportunity to support private and public investment in economic revitalization to help improve environmental outcomes across the country. Addressing the nation's brownfields - abandoned or underutilized properties stigmatized by past commercial or industrial uses - is an ongoing challenge for communities of every size.*

#### [EPA Determines Risks from Hardrock Mining Industry Minimal and No Need for Additional Federal Requirements](#)

Release Date: 12/01/2017

EPA announced that the Agency will not issue final regulations for financial responsibility requirements for certain hardrock mining facilities.

#### Statement

*After careful analysis of public comments, the statutory authority, and the record for this rulemaking, we are confident that modern industry practices, along with existing state and federal requirements address risks from operating hardrock mining facilities. EPA published proposed regulations under section 108(b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund) on January 11, 2017, and the public comment period closed on July 11, 2017.*

#### [EPA Launches Cross-Agency Effort to Address PFAS](#)

Release Date: 12/04/2017

EPA is announcing a cross-agency effort to address per and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). PFAS, which includes PFOA, PFOS and GenX, are a diverse group of compounds resistant to heat, water, and oil that are persistent in the environment and resist degradation.

#### Statement

*EPA's efforts build on the work that the Agency has done to establish non-regulatory drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS. The Agency's water and research offices will lead these efforts and they will bring together expertise from across the Agency including top scientists from EPA's air, chemicals, land, research, and water offices.*

#### [EPA Announces More Public Listening Sessions on Proposed Repeal of Clean Power Plan](#)

Release Date: 12/06/2017

EPA will hold three additional public listening sessions on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan in San Francisco, Calif., Gillette, Wyo. and Kansas City, Mo.

#### Statement

## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

*Due to the overwhelming response to our West Virginia hearing, we are announcing additional opportunities for the public to voice their views to the Agency. Public listening sessions will be on EPA's proposed repeal of the Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units (commonly known as the Clean Power Plan).*

### **President Trump Appoints EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt as Chair of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council**

Release Date: 12/06/2017

Today, President Donald Trump appointed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt as the new chairperson of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council). Note: Ken Wagner is the Administrator's designee.

#### Statement

*With Administrator Pruitt as chair, the council is poised to build on our foundation of collaboration among members over the past five years. Along with our restoration partners, the council is ready to advance our efforts to restore the Gulf ecosystem and economy from the worst environmental disaster in the nation's history.*

### **Administrator Pruitt Meets with National Environmental Justice Advisory Council**

Release Date: 12/07/2017

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt met with members of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) to discuss Fiscal Year 2018 priorities including guidelines for meaningful public participation and EPA's Superfund Task Force recommendations.

#### Statement

*Environmental justice dialogues are critical to improving environmental and public health outcomes. Established in 1993, NEJAC provides advice and recommendations about broad, cross-cutting issues related to environmental justice to the EPA Administrator.*

### **EPA Releases List of Superfund Sites Targeted for Immediate, Intense Attention**

Release Date: 12/08/2017

The 21 sites on the list – from across the United States – are in direct response to the Superfund Task Force Recommendations, issued this summer, calling for this list. In Region 6, the list includes Tar Creek Superfund site in Oklahoma and San Jacinto River Waste Pits site in Harris county, Texas.

#### Statement

*The Administrator has charged us to immediately and intently develop plans for each of these sites to ensure they are thoughtfully addressed with urgency. Getting toxic land sites cleaned up and revitalized is of the utmost importance to the communities across the country that are affected by these sites. By getting these sites cleaned up, EPA will continue to focus on ways we can directly improve public health and the environment for people everywhere.*

### **EPA Seeks Input from State Partners on Lead and Copper Rule**

Release Date: 12/14/2017

EPA sent letters to state partners on forthcoming proposed regulatory revisions to the existing Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). These changes are intended to not only improve the protection of public health, but the effective implementation of the rule as well. The first meeting will be January 8, 2018 in Washington DC and kick off a 60 day opportunity for input.



## MAJOR EPA ACTIONS: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

### Statement

*In keeping with our commitment to cooperative federalism, EPA is seeking input from state stakeholders on proposed revisions to properly address lead and ensure communities have access to safe drinking water.*

### [EPA Releases Annual Regulatory Plan](#)

Release Date: 12/14/2017

EPA, along with the rest of the federal government, released its *Semiannual Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions and Regulatory Plan*. The *Semiannual Regulatory Agenda* provides updates to the public about regulatory activity to support EPA's core mission to protect human health and the environment. The latest *Regulatory Plan* describes the 13 most significant regulatory priorities the Agency expects to propose or finalize in the upcoming year. AIR: 1) electric utility sector Greenhouse Gas rules, 2) Light-duty Vehicle mid-term evaluation, 3) New Source Review & Title V permitting program reforms, 4) ozone national ambient air quality standard implementation revisions, WATER: 5) waters of the U.S., 6) effluent limitation guidelines and standards for steam electric generating point source category, 7) national drinking water regulations for lead and copper, CLEANUP: 8) coal combustion residuals (CCR) review, 9) reconsideration of the accidental release prevention regulations under CAA, 10) hazardous and solid waste management system: disposal of coal combustion residues from electric utilities: Remand Rule, 11) Clean Water Act hazardous substances spill prevention; SAFETY OF CHEMICALS: 12) Chemical Safety for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act Implementation, and 13) reconsideration of pesticide safety requirements.

### Statement

*EPA's plan balances its statutory requirements to issue regulations and its commitment to providing regulatory certainty through improvements to existing regulations that were flawed, outdated, ineffective, or unnecessarily burdensome.*